Phasing out of subsidies on kerosene/LPG

*516. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy given by Government on each LPG cylinder and kerosene per litre;

(b) the annual subsidy budget in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to phase out the subsidy in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The present estimated average subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene is around Rs. 90 per cylinder and Rs. 3.00 per liter respectively.

(b) A provision of Rs. 4495.80 crorc has been made in the budget estimates of 2002-2003 on this account.

(c) and (d) The subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene is proposed to be phased out in the next three to five years.

Deposits with commercial banks and post offices

*517. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy shortfall in deposits with the commercial banks and post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which decline has been noticed;

(c) the reasons for such a shortfall; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Deposits of scheduled commercial banks and gross collections in